

CHINA MAY FIGHT

Declaration of Neutrality Is Said to Be Temporary.

30,000 Troops Ready to Move on Short Notice.

HEAVY GUNS PLACED.

Russia Is Fortifying Points on the Black Sea.

Russian Warships Are Reported in Korean Straits.

New York, Feb. 22.—An interview attributed to the Chinese minister here quotes that diplomat, says a World dispatch from Berlin, as having proclaimed that China's neutrality is only temporary; that even the astutest diplomats can tell what another day will bring forth in China's attitude. The minister is quoted as having said: "It should never be forgotten that the war will be fought out in Manchuria, on Chinese territory, and that the excitement of the Chinese people will increase as the war progresses."

"Naturally, therefore, the Chinese government may be expected on any one day to decide that its continued neutrality is neither possible or desirable."

"Thirty thousand well drilled Chinese troops are already stationed in the province of Chi Li ready at a moment's notice from Pekin to enter Manchuria."

"Our nation admires the Japanese and sympathizes decidedly with their efforts."

HEAVY GUNS PLACED.

New York, Feb. 22.—Heavy guns are being put in position at about 100 miles from Odessa, covering the approach to the port, according to a Times dispatch from Warsaw. The correspondent points out that these preparations are being made in view of possible untoward happenings around the Black Sea. The effect of war in the far east upon the Mediterranean is the chief diplomatic topic in many European capitals.

BLACK SEA FLEET MAY COME OUT.

New York, Feb. 22.—A dispatch to the Herald from St. Petersburg regards the forecast that some morning the Russian Black sea fleet may be unexpectedly found in the Mediterranean. Turkey being assured that this once an accomplished fact, none of the powers would have a word to say in objection.

Diplomatic negotiations towards this end are alleged to be progressing. Such eagerness from the Black sea would release the 11 big armored ships and about 25 torpedo boats.

RUSSIANS IN THE STRAITS.

New York, Feb. 22.—Russian warships are reported to have entered the Korean straits, says a Tokyo dispatch to the American. Transports carrying troops across are heavily convoyed in consequence.

The prefectural office has received a telegram from the chief magistrate of the island of Miyaki, south of the gulf of Korea, reporting that a Russian steamer, the *Yokohama*, had been sighted in the gulf on the 19th. The subsequent movements of this mysterious party are not reported, but inquiry is under way.

THE CZAR WILL FAST.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Carnival week closed on Sunday night, and yesterday all classes of the population from the highest to the lowest began the observance of Lent with even more than the customary rigor, doing penance and praying for the success of the Russian arms.

The czar will pass the week fasting at the winter palace, and immediately afterward the court will remove to Tsarskoe-Zelo, the czar's favorite abode.

The Novoe-Vremya commenting upon the report that M. Pavloff, who was Russian minister at Seoul, on the night at Chemulpo, declares that Japan's action there has stricken her from the list of civilized nations, and predicts a revival of European solidarity against the "wild Asiatic empire."

The paper re-emphasizes the inevitability of long delay before extensive military operations will be possible, owing to the immense area to be defended and the elaborate equipment required.

JAPANESE WILL GO SLOWLY.

London, Feb. 22.—The latest advice of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, is that he does not believe that the Japanese troops will now wait possibly two or three months before undertaking aggressive operations in Manchuria.

"We have found that Russia is so unexpectedly unprepared that I should not be surprised if the Japanese land forces contented themselves with establishing a thorough organization and advancing as the construction of the railroad towards the Yalu river."

Baron Hayashi does not credit the report that 2,500 Russian soldiers have been killed in an outpost engagement at the Yalu river. He says there is no evidence to infer such a vicinity large naval development Baron Hayashi expects in the near future is a possible attack upon the Japanese fleet by the powerful Russian torpedo flotilla at Port Arthur and hitherto unused, on the Japanese side, except possible action against the Russian military does not look for developments at present believing that Admiral Togo will be satisfied to keep the Russian fleet in the Korean straits.

The minister credits the Russian with having barely 100,000 troops in Manchuria.

PORT ARTHUR OUT OF MEAT.

Chefoo, Monday, Feb. 22.—The captain of the German steamer *Prinz* just arrived from Dalny, says positively that beside the torpedo gunboat *Yenesei*, accidentally destroyed by one of her own mines, the Russians have just lost another ship by accident on the 12th inst.

This was an armored cruiser, the *Prinz*, which was not injured in avoiding some mines she ran upon rocks from which she eventually slipped off into deep water and sank. There was no loss of life attached to the disaster.

The Russian authorities insist that there is no truth in the story that a force of 1,000 Japanese landed at Pigeon Bay, but have been annihilated. Port Arthur is said to be entirely out of beef and vegetables and drawing upon Dalny for a slim support. Troops are being rushed towards the Yalu with all expedition possible. The *Prinz* was sent from Port Arthur to Dalny for refugees, chiefly Japanese women. While leaving Port Arthur with all lights out she was stopped by a Russian cruiser, is shot striking her upper works. It was subsequently explained that she was mistaken for a Japanese torpedo boat.

The entrance to Dalny is honeycombed with mines. Nothing was seen on the passage to this port of either the Russian or Japanese fleets.

New York, Feb. 22.—The small Russian fleet reported destroyed in the above dispatch was probably the *Boyar*, an, previously announced to have been blown up by a mine at Port Arthur. The *Boyar* was a Russian account said ran onto the rocks while endeavoring to pick up a mine which had been brought to the surface during the Japanese torpedo attack on the St. Petersburg report of the disaster that the entire crew of the *Boyar*, 197 men, were lost.

RUSSIAN REPOSE REPORTED.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—It is reported here that the Russian advance guard on the Yalu river has been driven back with a loss of more than 2,000. The emperor has ordered an inquiry into Port Arthur affairs.

LOOKS FOR FIGHTING IN KOREA.

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JAPAN BUYS PORK.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 22.—Representatives of Japan have just placed an order with a packing company in this city for 2,000 barrels of mess pork. The order is to be shipped as rapidly as possible.

REFUGEES FROM VLADIVOSTOCK.

Nagasaki, Feb. 22.—The steamer *St. Petersburg* has arrived here from Vladivostok with 20 white Russians, Chinese and 50 Japanese. She brings in addition 400 survivors of the Japanese battleship *Yokohama*, which was sunk by the Russian cruiser *Boyar* from Vladivostok on February 11. Two of these men were drowned during the sinking.

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